
Interim Policy & Procedure Memorandum

ISD-IPP 15 - 13

TO: ISD Employees
FROM: Marilyn Martinez, Director, Income Support Division
RE: Shelters for Battered Persons
DATE: July 1, 2015

*All Ministers
in Martinez*

On December 18, 2014, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued clarification regarding men who are victims of domestic violence residing in shelters for battered women and children.

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for SNAP allow flexibilities for victims of domestic violence who are fleeing their abuser. These include:

- Section 3(n)(5) of the Act: Conferring separate household status to temporary residents of shelters for battered persons;
- Section 3(k) of the Act: Allowing those residents to use their SNAP benefits to purchase food from the shelter; and
- 7 CFR 273.3(a): Allowing duplicate participation of an individual who is a resident of a shelter for battered persons, and was a member of a household containing the person who had abused him or her.

As the specific language of the Act of 2008 refers to “temporary residents” and conveys that the flexibilities are not limited to one gender or sex, *shelters for battered women and children*, will now be referred to as *shelters for battered persons*. Therefore, all persons, including men, fleeing from domestic violence shall be interpreted to apply to all victims of domestic violence regardless of gender or sex.

If you have questions concerning this change, please contact Samuel Peinado, Bureau Chief, Policy and Program Development Bureau at samuel.peinado@state.nm.us or via telephone at 505-827-7219.